

A1 i) detecting face information from each of the original image signals, said face information representing a position and/or a size of the face pattern of the person in the person image represented by each original image signal,

ii) performing a pattern matching process for each face pattern represented by said detected face information to calculate an amount of displacement and/or size difference thereof from a normalized value,

iii) performing a face pattern normalizing process on each of the original image signals based on said detected face information and said calculated amount of displacement and/or size difference, a plurality of normalized image signals being obtained from said face pattern normalizing process, and

iv) laying out a plurality of images, which are represented by said normalized image signals, in a predetermined layout, whereby the layout image signal representing the thus formed layout image is obtained.

A2 3. (Amended) An image processing apparatus for obtaining a layout image signal representing a layout image, in which a plurality of person images are laid out, from a plurality of original image signals, each of the original image signals representing a person image, in which a face pattern of a person is embedded, the apparatus comprising:

i) detection means for detecting face information from each of the original image signals, said face information representing a position and/or a size of the face pattern of the person in the person image represented by each original image signal,

ii) pattern matching means for performing a pattern matching process for each face pattern represented by said detected face information to calculate an amount of displacement and/or size difference thereof from a normalized value,

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iii) normalization means for performing a face pattern normalizing process on each of the original image signals based on said detected face information and said calculated amount of displacement and/or size difference, a plurality of normalized image signals being obtained from said face pattern normalizing process, and

iv) editing means for laying out a plurality of images, which are represented by said normalized image signals, in a predetermined layout, and obtaining the layout image signal representing the thus formed layout image.

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5. (Amended) A recording medium, on which a program for causing a computer to execute an image processing method has been recorded and from which the computer is capable of reading the program, the image processing method comprising obtaining a layout image signal representing a layout image, in which a plurality of person images are laid out, from a plurality of original image signals, each of the original image signals representing a person image, in which a face pattern of a person is embedded,

wherein the program comprises the procedures of:

i) detecting face information from each of the original image signals, said face information representing a position and/or a size of the face pattern of the person in the person image represented by each original image signal,

ii) performing a pattern matching process for each face pattern represented by said detected face information to calculate an amount of displacement and/or size difference thereof from a normalized value,

A3 iii) performing a face pattern normalizing process on each of the original image signals based on said detected face information and said calculated amount of displacement and/or size difference, a plurality of normalized image signals being obtained from said face pattern normalizing process, and

iv) laying out a plurality of images, which are represented by said normalized image signals, in a predetermined layout, whereby the layout image signal representing the thus formed layout image is obtained.
